

DEFIANT.

4

\$3.25

\$4.50 CANADA

SPECIAL
48-PAGE
ISSUE!

CHARLEMAGNE



ADAM
OLINA
BOB
WIAKEK



NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS

THERE'S A GOOD BOOK
THAT'S GOT A WARNING...

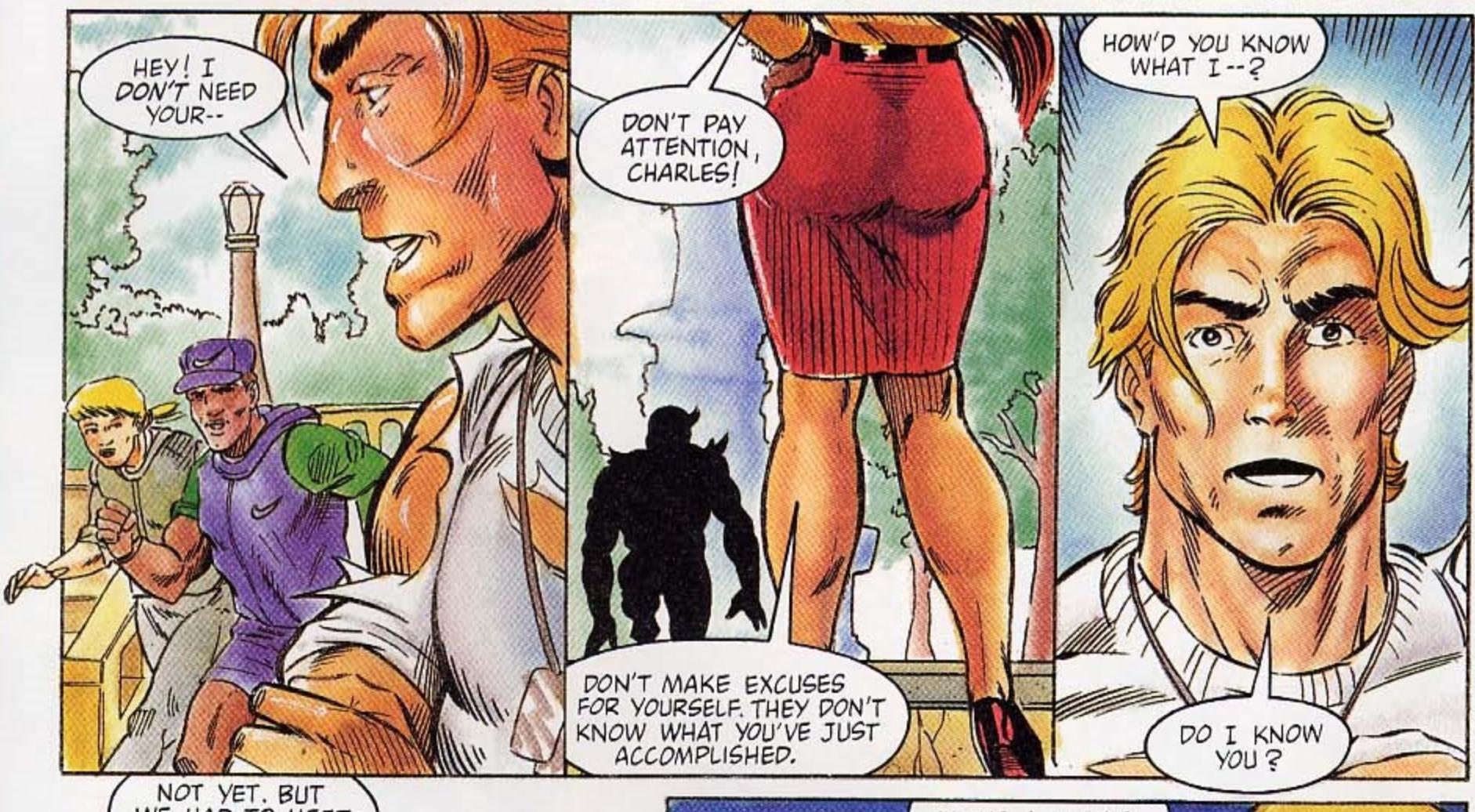
-- "ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATION"
THE SPIRIT INDEED IS WILLING,
BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK.

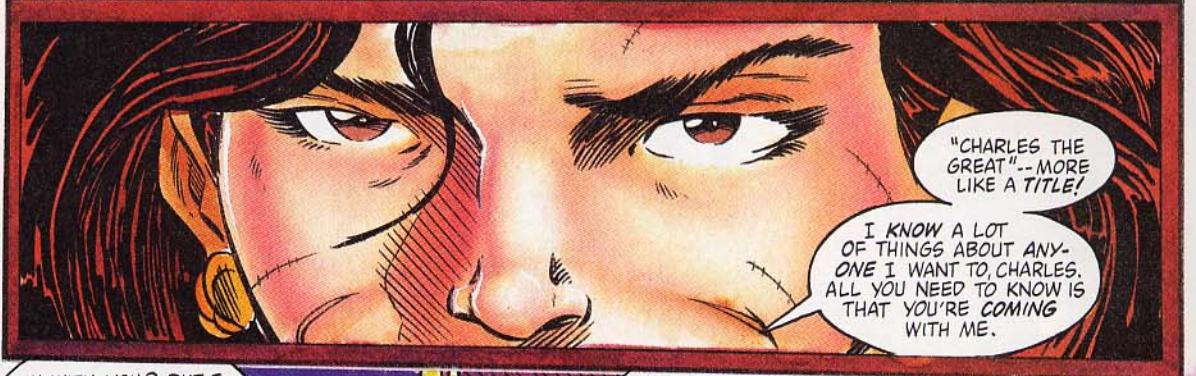
AS A BOY, CHARLES SMITH'S INDOMITABLE
SPIRIT SENT HIM TO WARTIME VIETNAM,
IN SEARCH OF HIS M.I.A. BROTHER.

THAT JOURNEY COST
HIM AND 18 YEARS,
BUT MIRACULOUSLY
BOUGHT HIM A BODY
CHARGED WITH POWER..

-- AND RIPE FOR SEDUCTION.
WISH CHARLES SMITH LUCK...
HE'S GOING TO NEED IT.

PLOT BY JIM SHOOTER &
JOSEPH A. JAMES
SCRIPT BY D.G. CHICHESTER
PENCILER - ANTHONY CASTRILLO
INKERS - CHAD HUNT &
KEITH WILSON
LETTERER - M. EISMAN
COLORISTS - DAVID HILLMAN &
ERIKA HELENE
EDITOR - JOSEPH A. JAMES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - JIM SHOOTER





"CHARLES THE GREAT"--MORE LIKE A TITLE!

I KNOW A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT ANYONE I WANT TO CHARLES. ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.



W-WITH YOU? BUT I HAVE TO F-FIND THE DANCER--FINISH HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS--THE WORLD--

WITH YOU...OKAY...ALL RIGHT...



YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST, CHARLES...I RESPECT THAT, BUT FIGHTING THE DANCER...I'M SORRY, I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES...OR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME! COME WITH ME NOW AND I'LL--



YOU'LL--LET HIM DESTROY IT ALL! WIPE IT ALL AWAY! N-NO. GET OUT--

GET OUT OF MY HEAD!



THEN AGAIN, NO ONE ELSE HAS GOT THE STRENGTH OF WILL TO TAKE ON THE DANCER, EITHER!



NO ONE'S EVER BLOWN OFF MY "SUGGESTIONS" LIKE THAT BEFORE!



C-COME BACK! TELL ME WHY! COME...

IN JUST OVER
AN HOUR.

UPPER MONTCLAIR,
NEW JERSEY.

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

LAY OFF
ALREADY,
I'M--

--COOKIE?!?

HIYA,
SIS!

YOU FALL
OFF THE FACE
OF THE EARTH
FOR GOD KNOWS
HOW LONG--

--AND I
GET "HIYA,
SIS!"?

THE "FACE
OF THE EARTH"
DOESN'T MEAN WHAT
IT USED TO, RUTH,
BELIEVE ME!

COOKIE,
WE'VE ALL
BEEN WORRIED
SICK!

AT LEAST I WAS ABLE
TO GET AROUND WITHOUT
PEOPLE STARING...

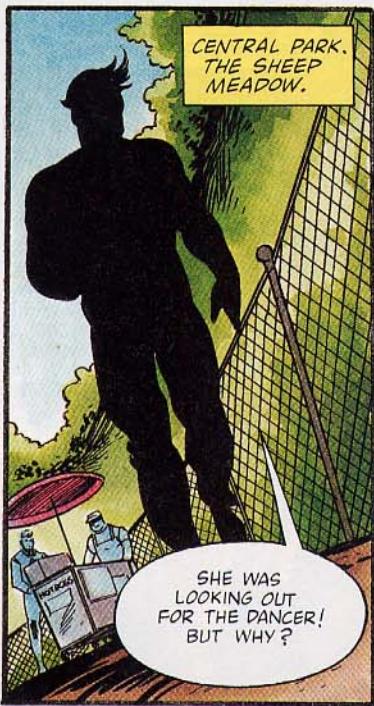
YOUR
FACE!

OMIGOD, LITTLE
SISTER...WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
YOU?

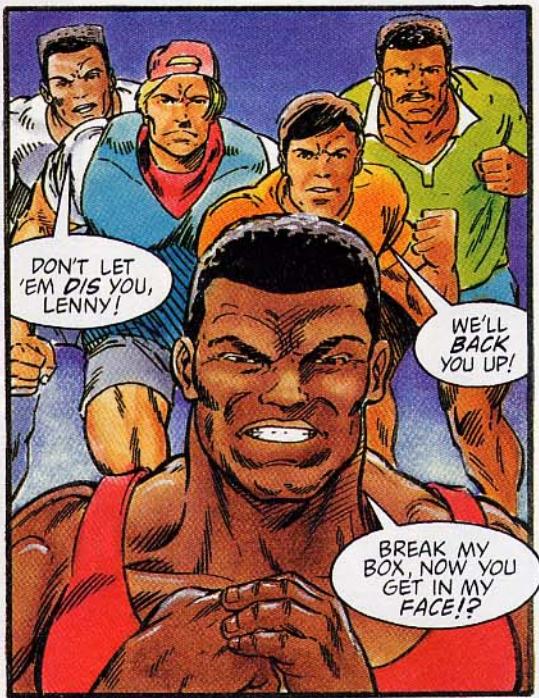
THE
MAKE-UP WASN'T
A BAD IDEA,
CONSIDERING.

"LITTLE SISTER"! I
NEVER THOUGHT I'D
WANT YOU CALLING ME
THAT AGAIN!







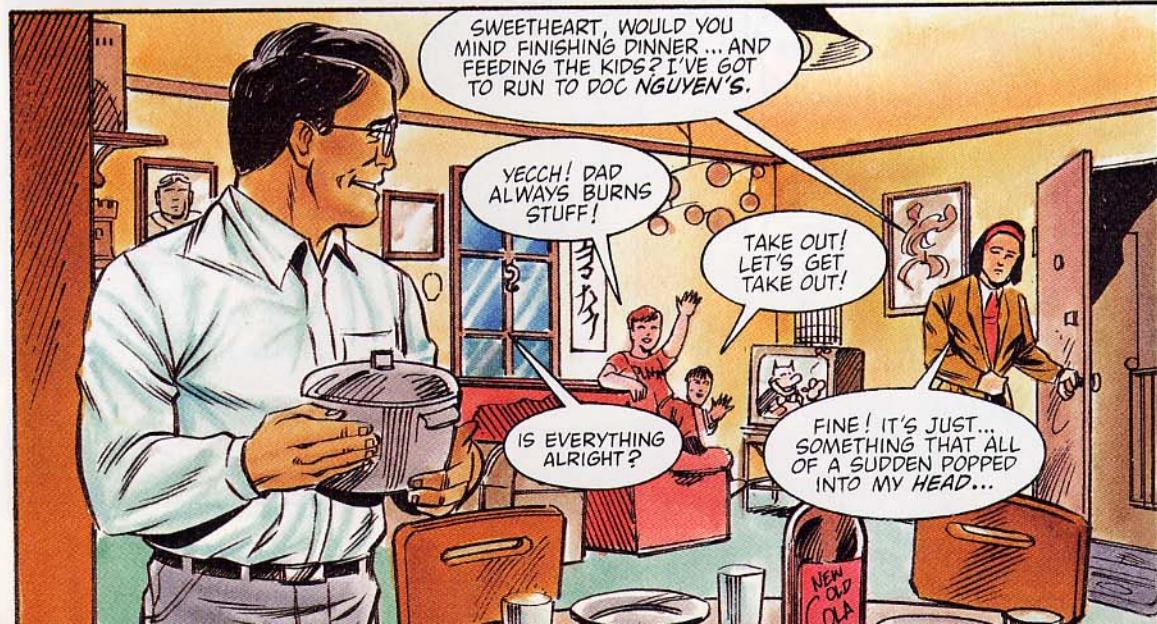


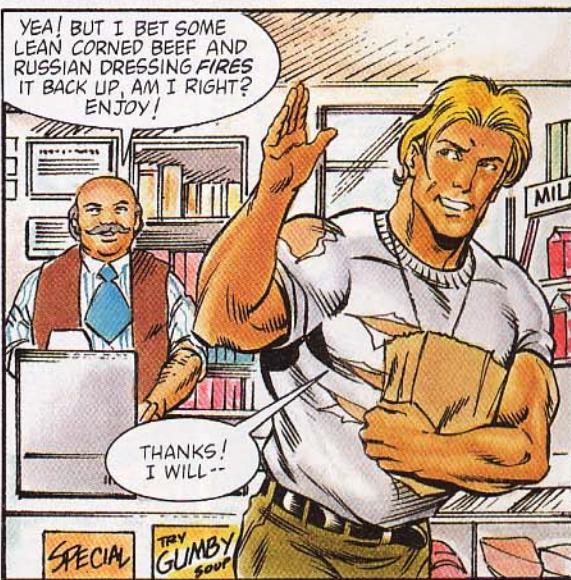
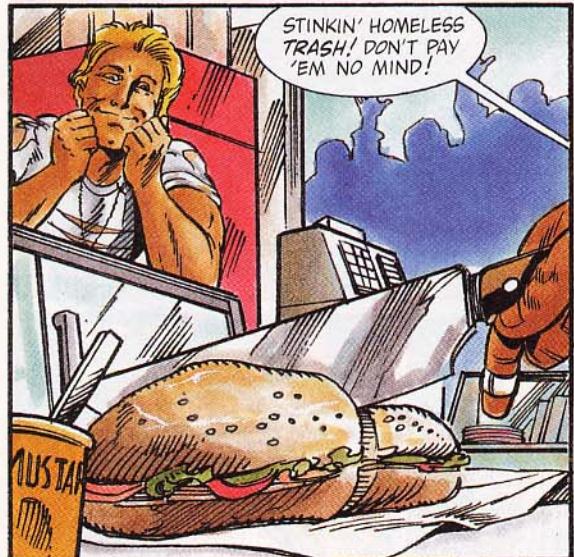
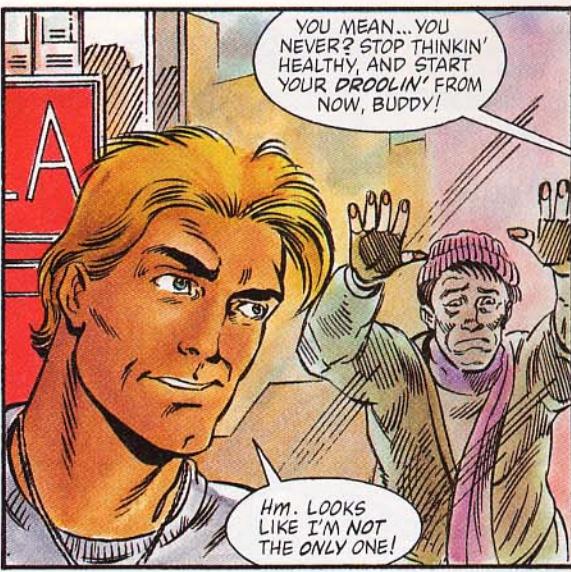
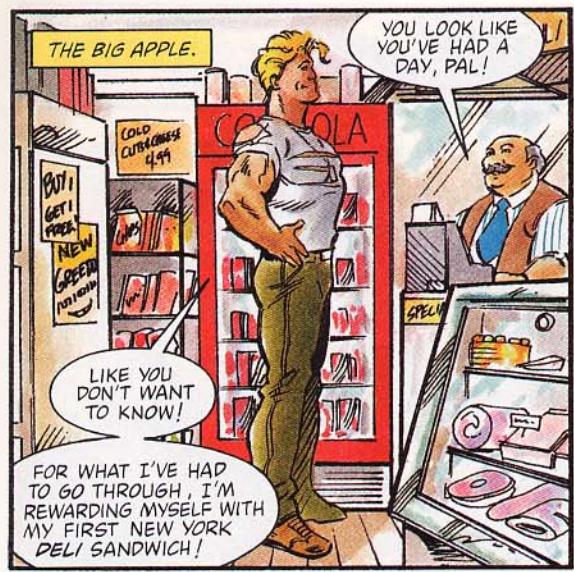


Vietnam,
Ho Chi Minh City.



WITH THE TRADE RESTRICTIONS LIFTING, I THINK THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES--





THE FRIENDLY EXCHANGE
DIES ON CHARLES' LIPS.

THE DOOR SLIPS SHUT,
SEALING HIM OUT ON
THE STREET.

ALL HE CAN HEAR NOW ARE
THE WHISPERS. HE CAN'T MAKE
OUT WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.

MAYBE THEY'RE NOT EVEN
WORDS. BUT THEY'RE NEEDY,
GROPING, GRASPING.

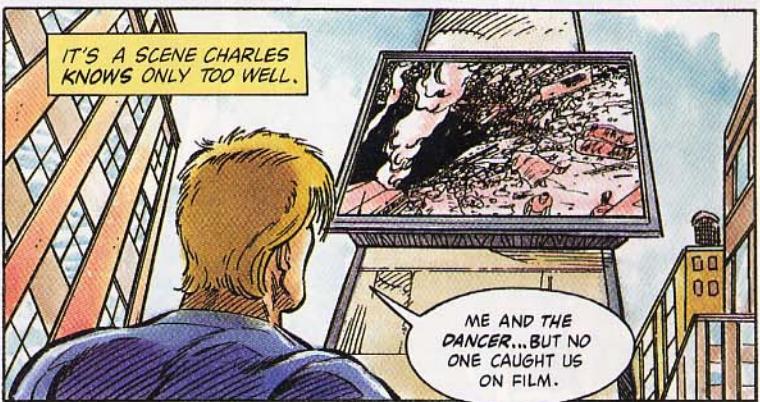
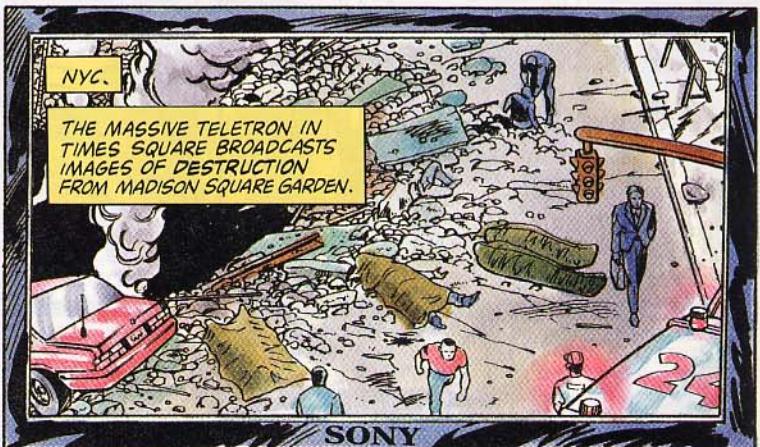
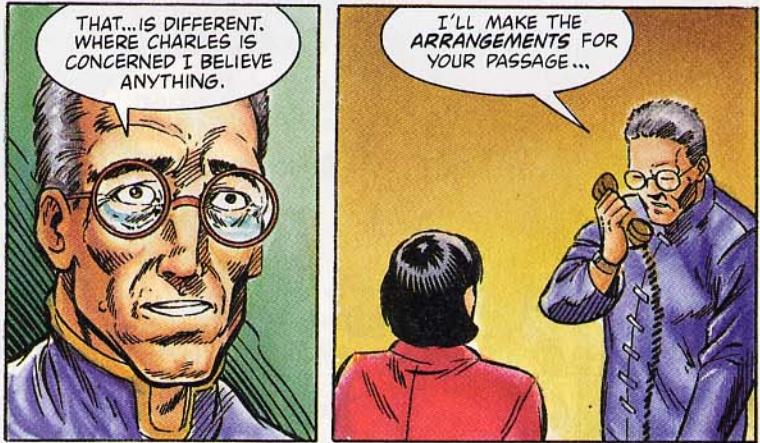
IT'S MORE OF A BURDEN THAN
THE 14 YEAR OLD BOY DEEP
INSIDE WANTS TO DEAL WITH.

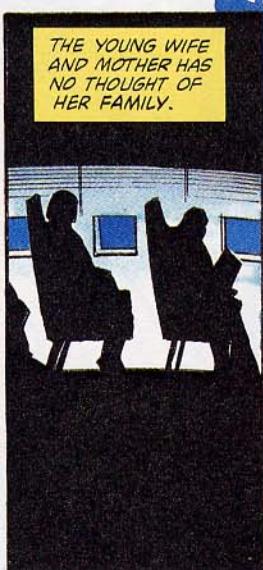
YOU'RE THE
ONE--OUR HERO!
RESCUE US FROM
THIS!

A WAY TO ESCAPE
WHAT HE'S BECOME...

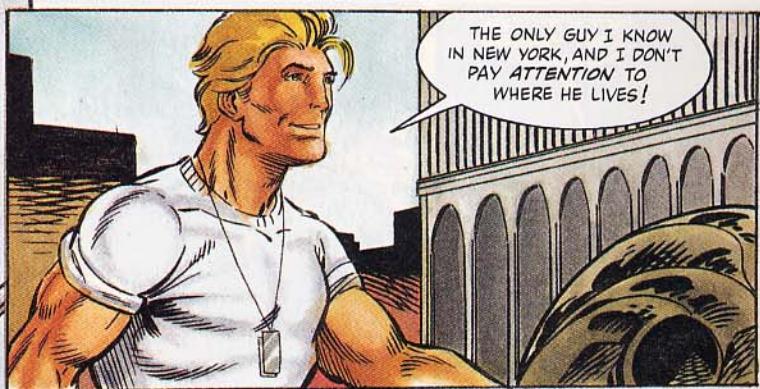
TAKE IT!
TAKE IT, I DON'T
WANT IT!

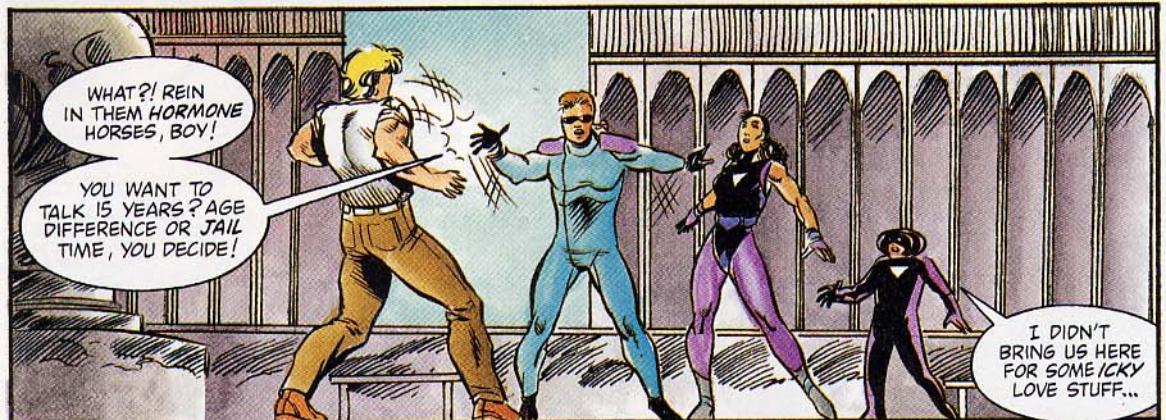
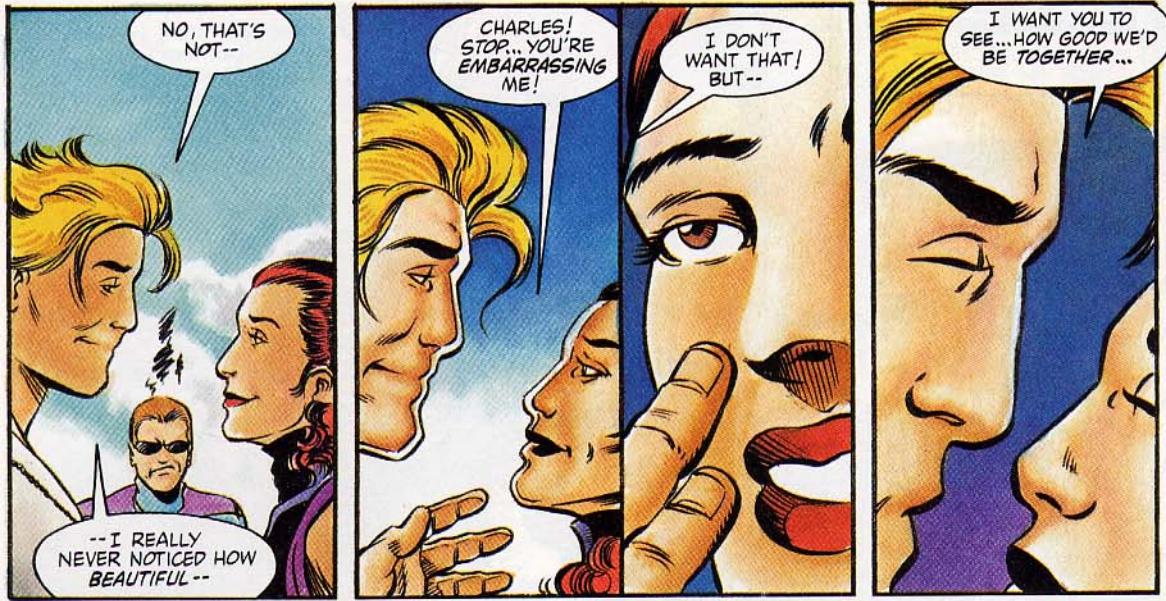
AND CHARLES FINDS HIMSELF
WISHING FOR A WAY TO FREE
HIMSELF FROM THE CHARGE
HE'S TAKEN ON.





WORLD TRADE CENTER,
LOWER MANHATTAN.









SELF-TAUGHT TRAINING
IN THE JUNGLES OF
WARTIME VIETNAM
HELPED HONE A YOUNG
CHARLES' REFLEXES.

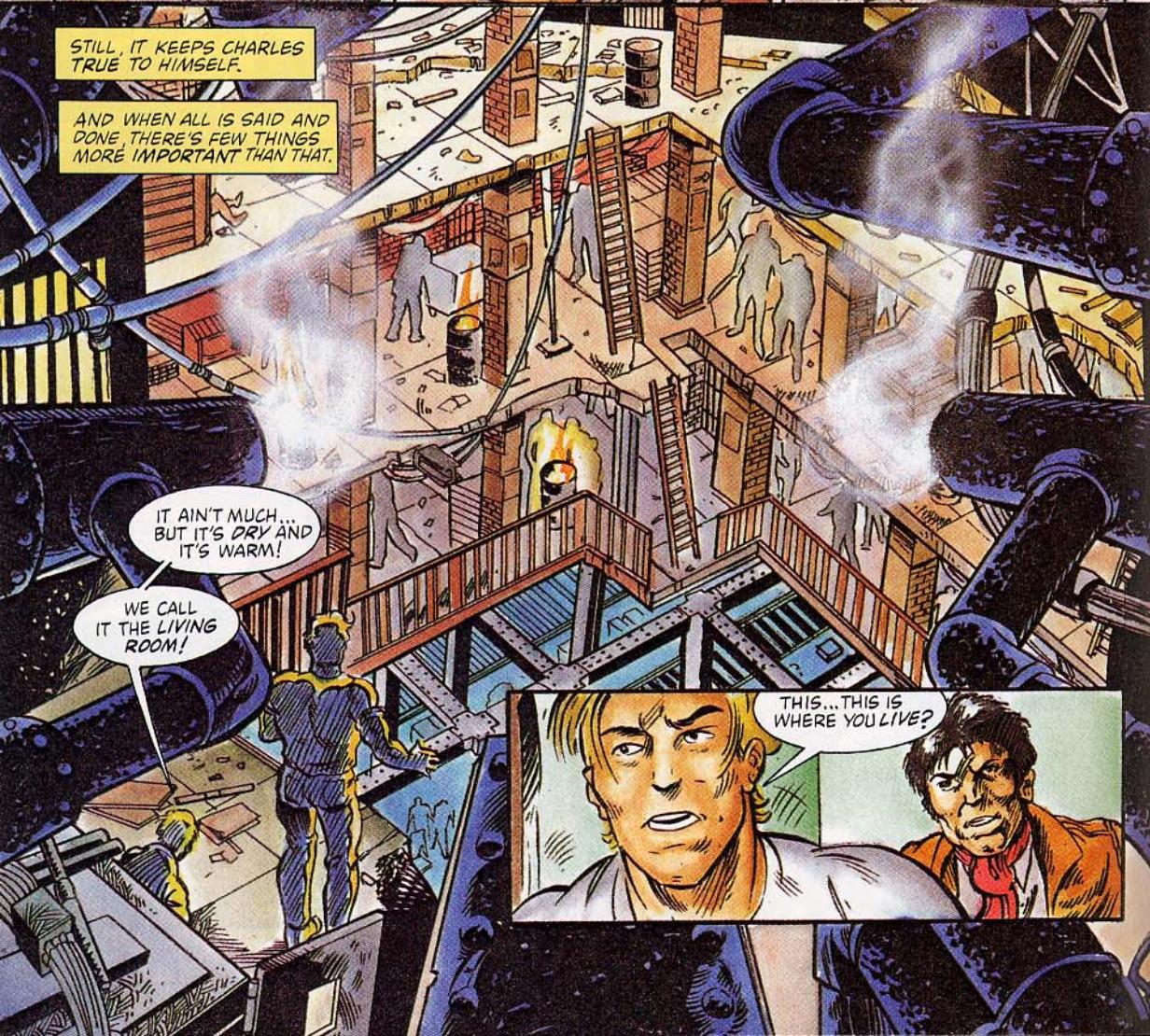
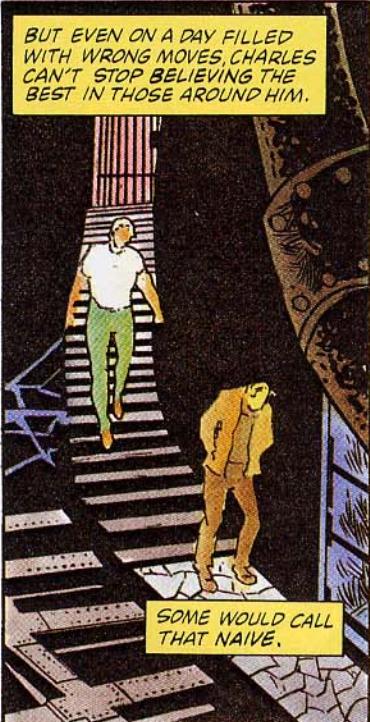


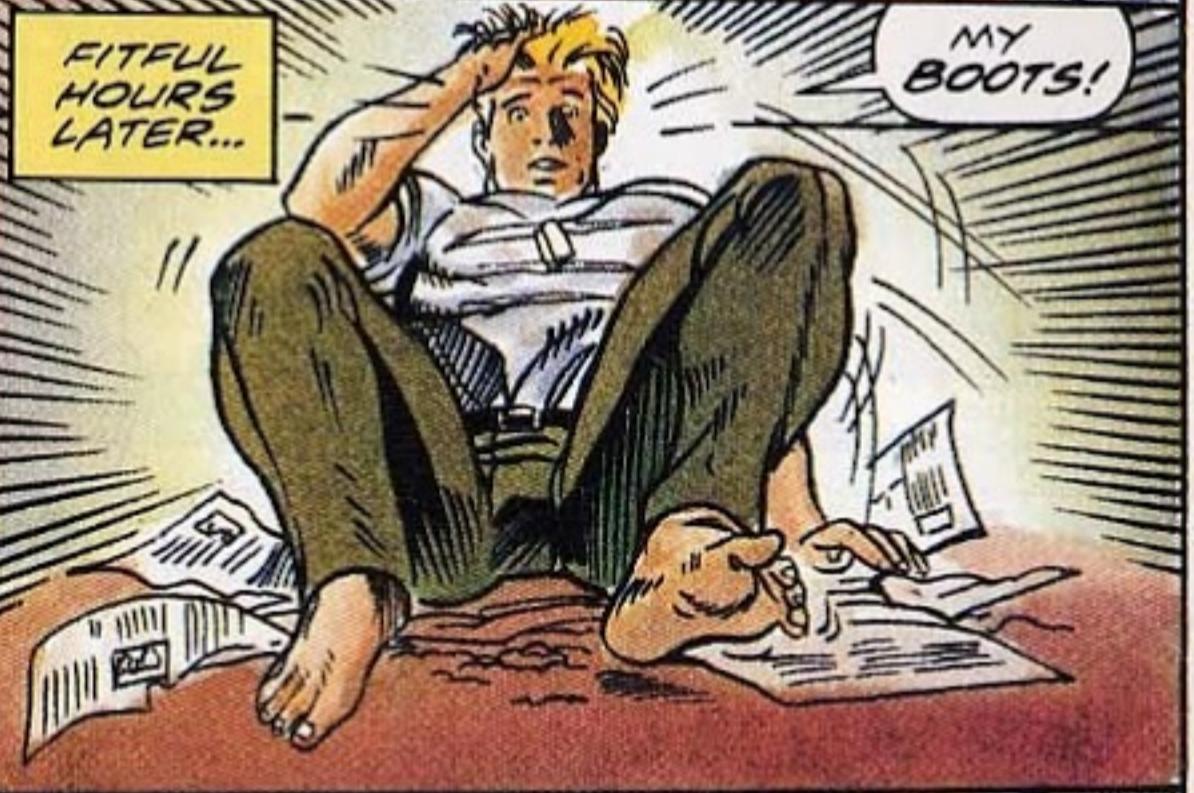
UH... WHY'D WE DO THAT TO CHARLES?

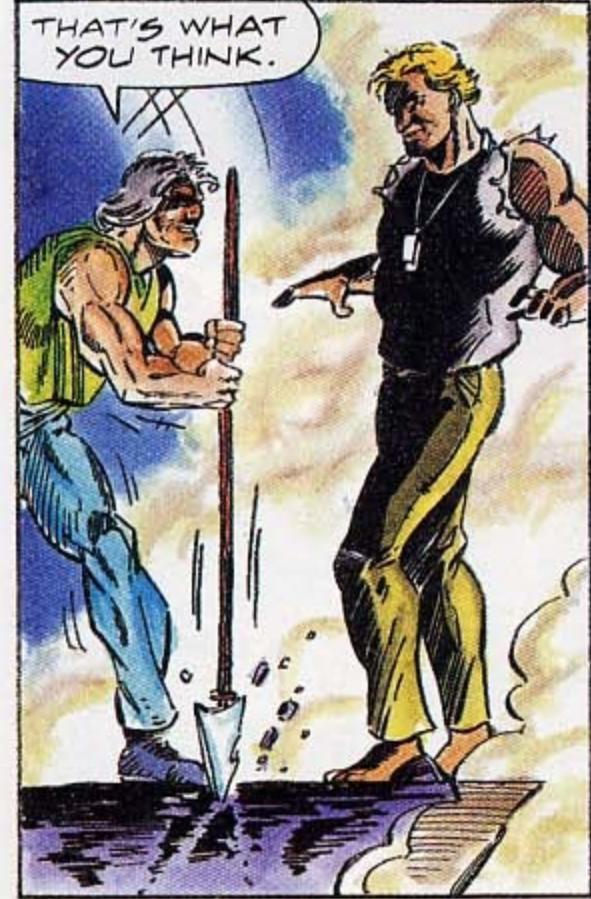
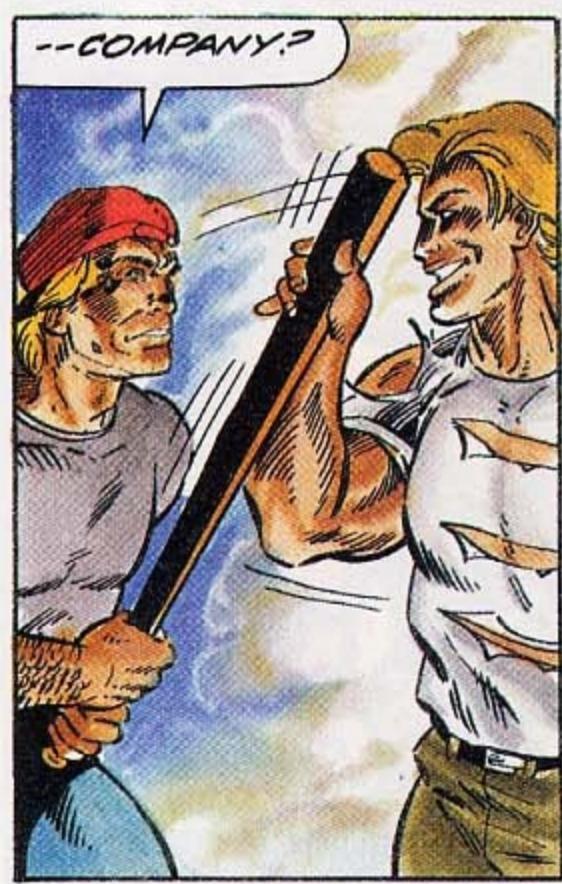
I --I DON'T KNOW, SPELLCASTER.

AND NEW YORK'S SUPPOSED TO BE SUCH A GENTLE TOWN...

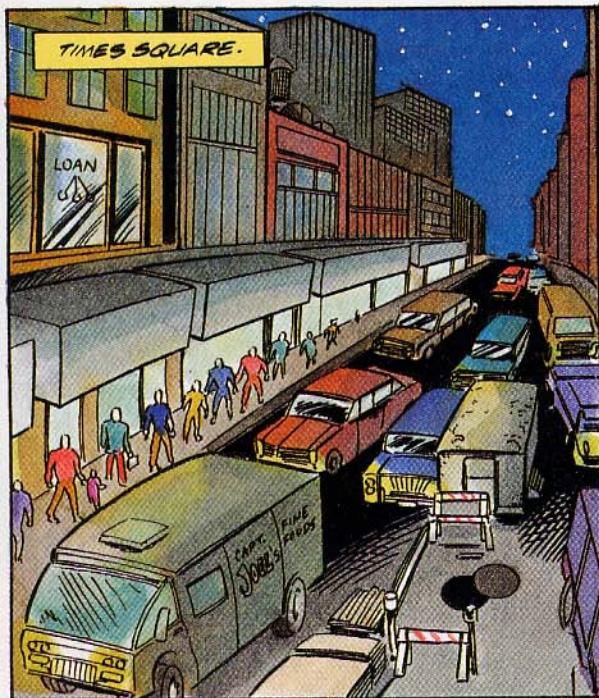


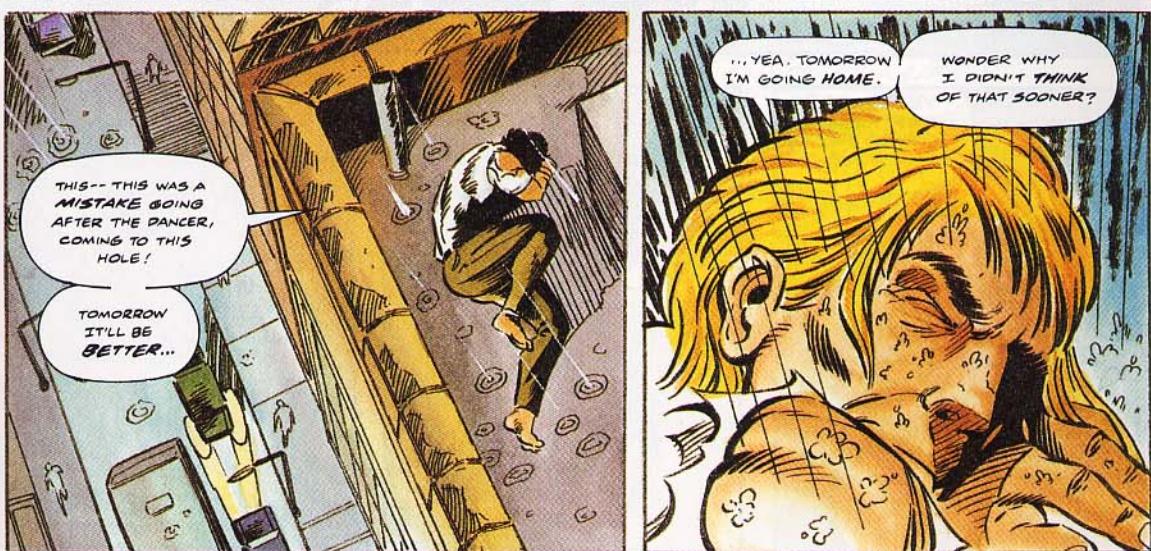
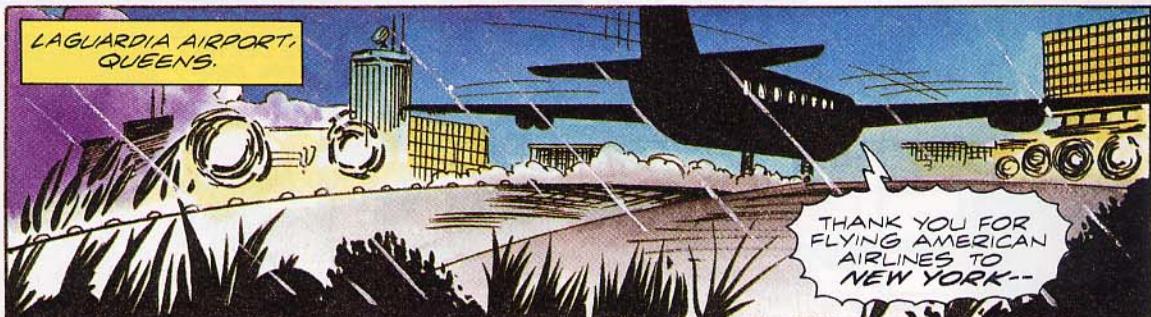
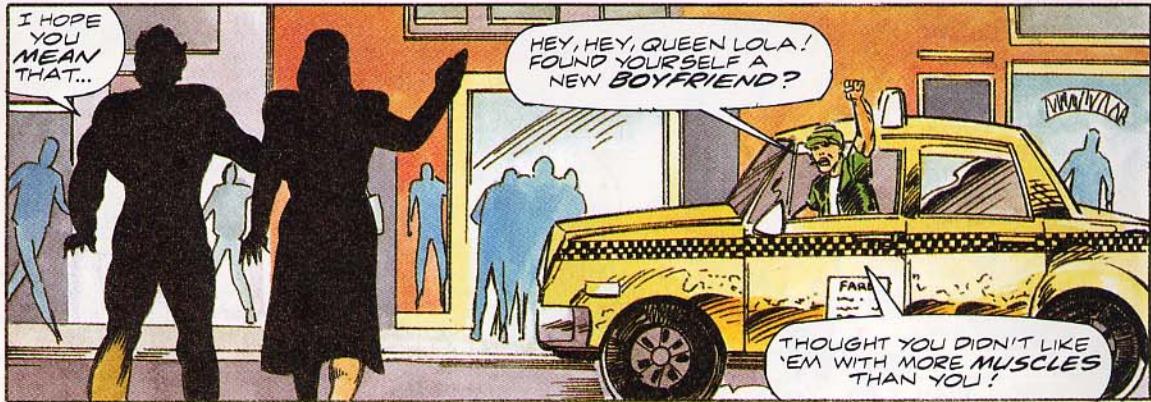


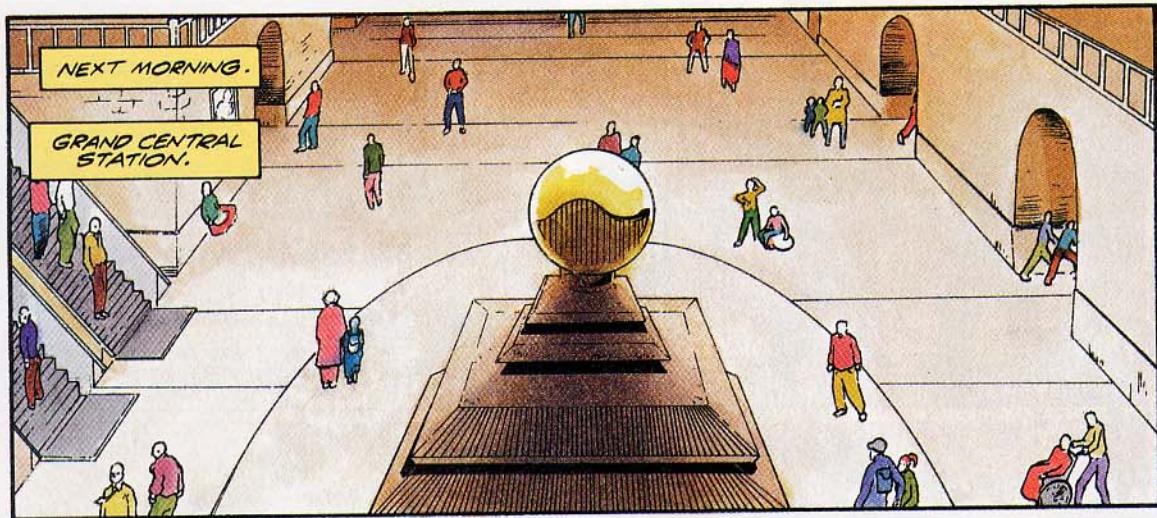


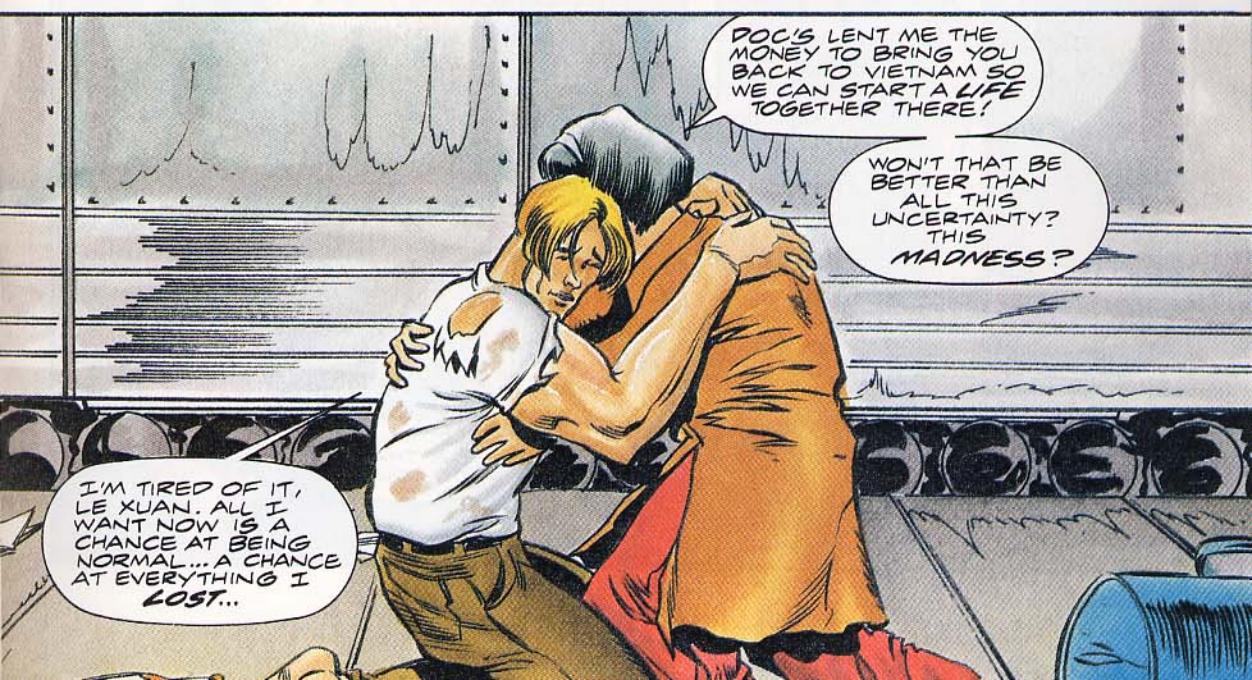






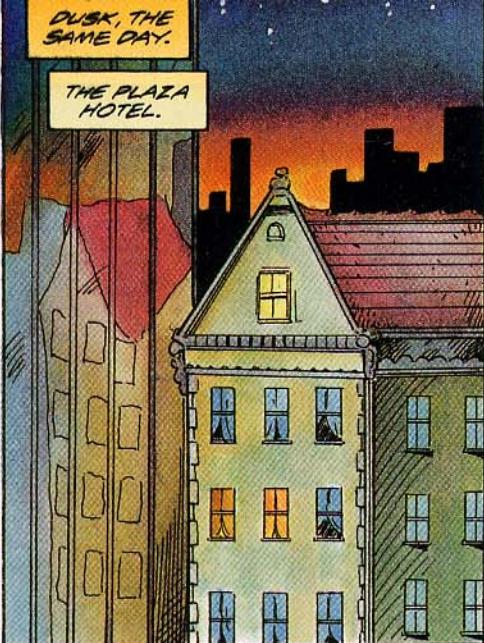




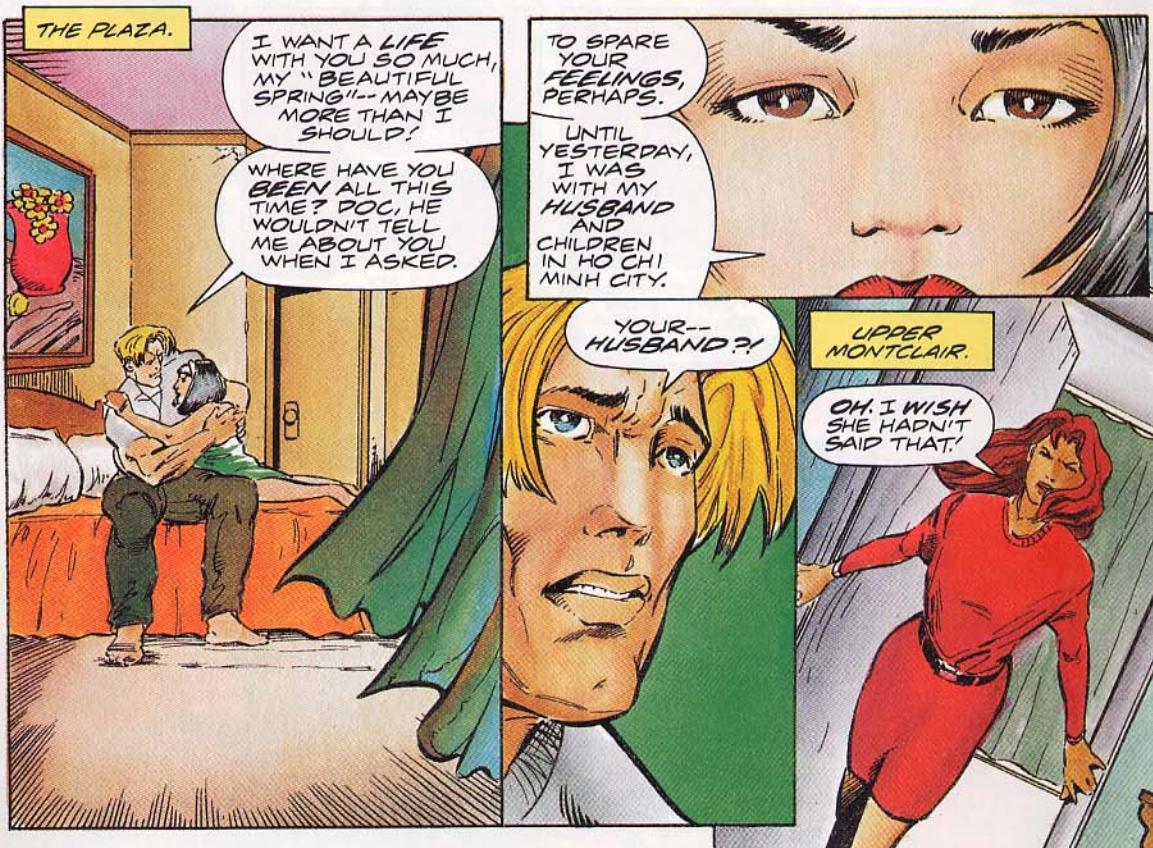
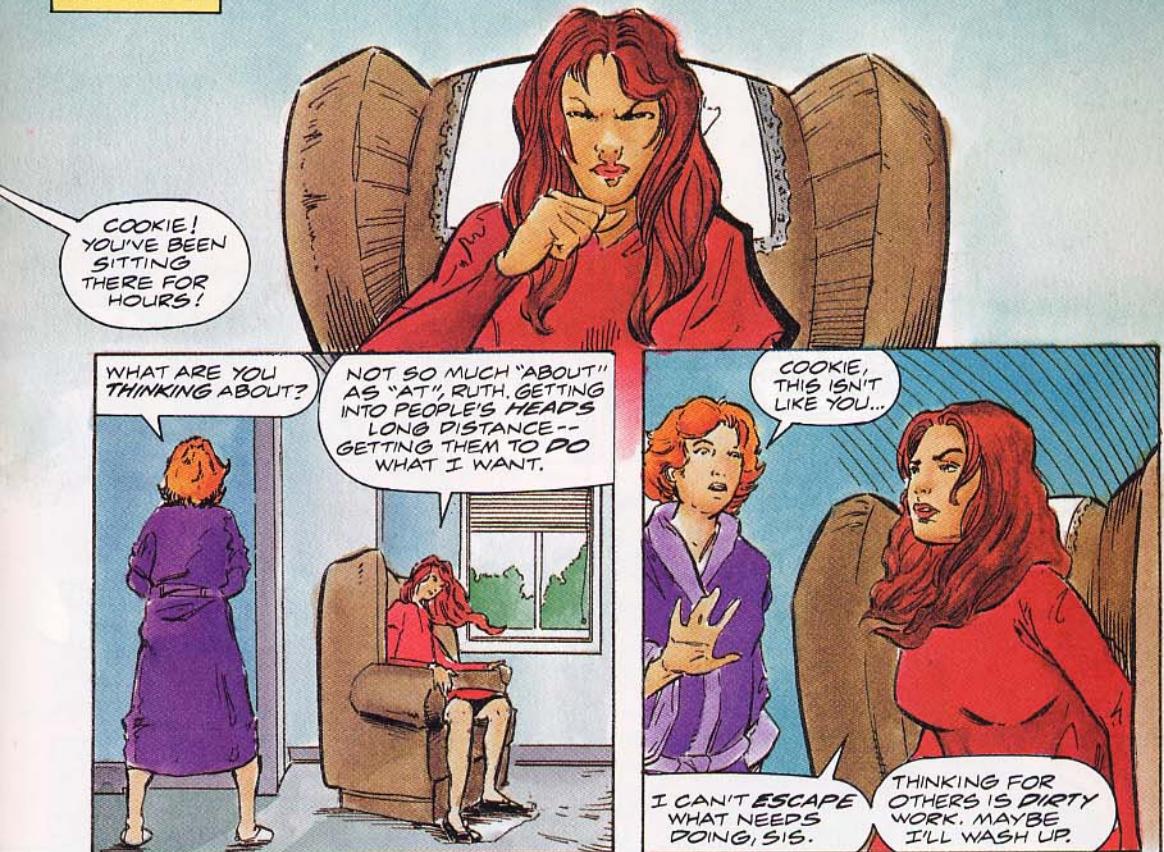


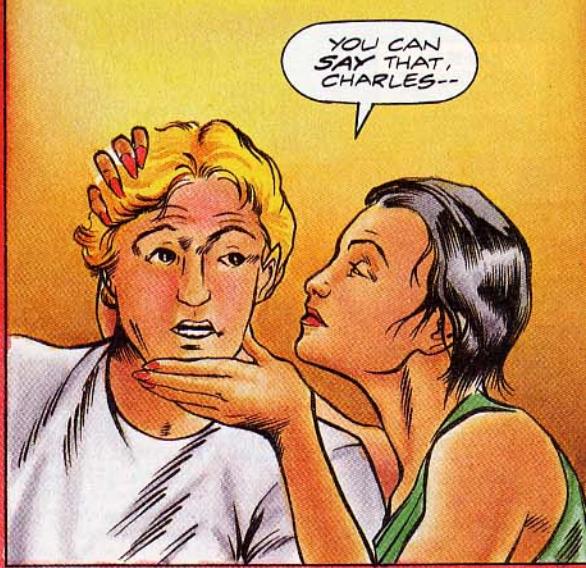
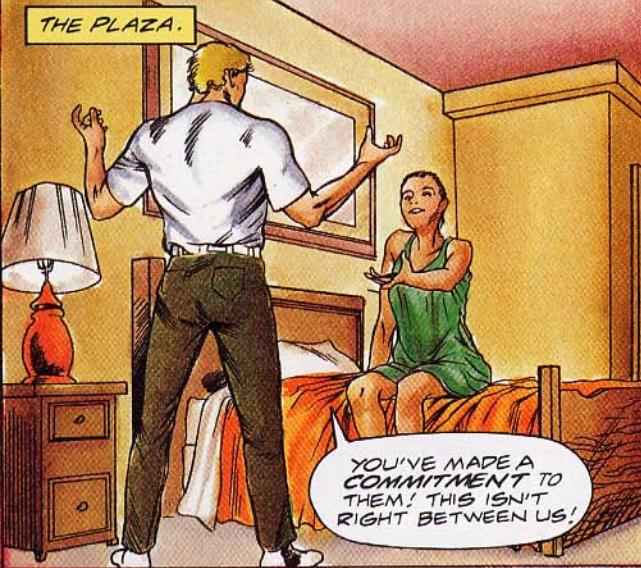
DUSK, THE
SAME DAY.

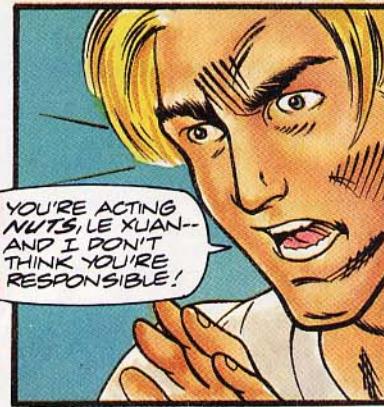
THE PLAZA
HOTEL.



UPPER
MONTCLAIR,
NEW JERSEY.





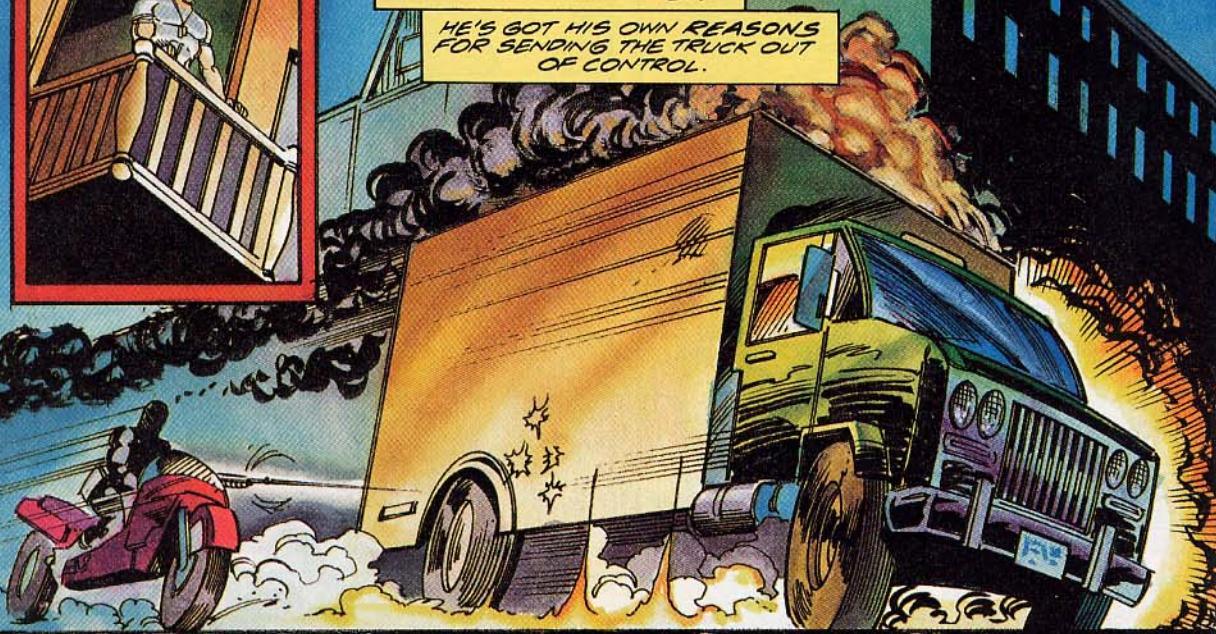


WHAT'S GOING
ON OUT HERE
IS ANOTHER
STORY!'

THE BIKER IS LT. ELVIS P. MAZEROV,
U.S. ARMY RESERVES--

--A DOG OF WAR WITH THE
ALL-TOO-APPROPRIATE
HANDLE OF SHOOTER.

HE'S GOT HIS OWN REASONS
FOR SENDING THE TRUCK OUT
OF CONTROL.



AND NOT A THOUGHT FOR
THE CONSEQUENCES.

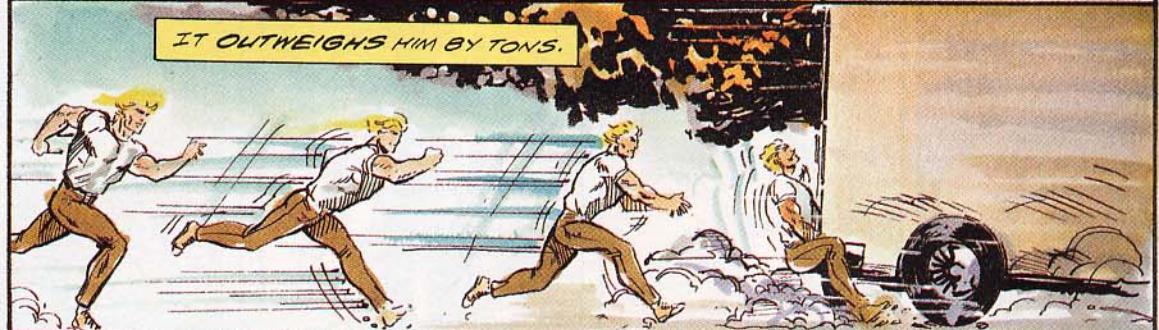
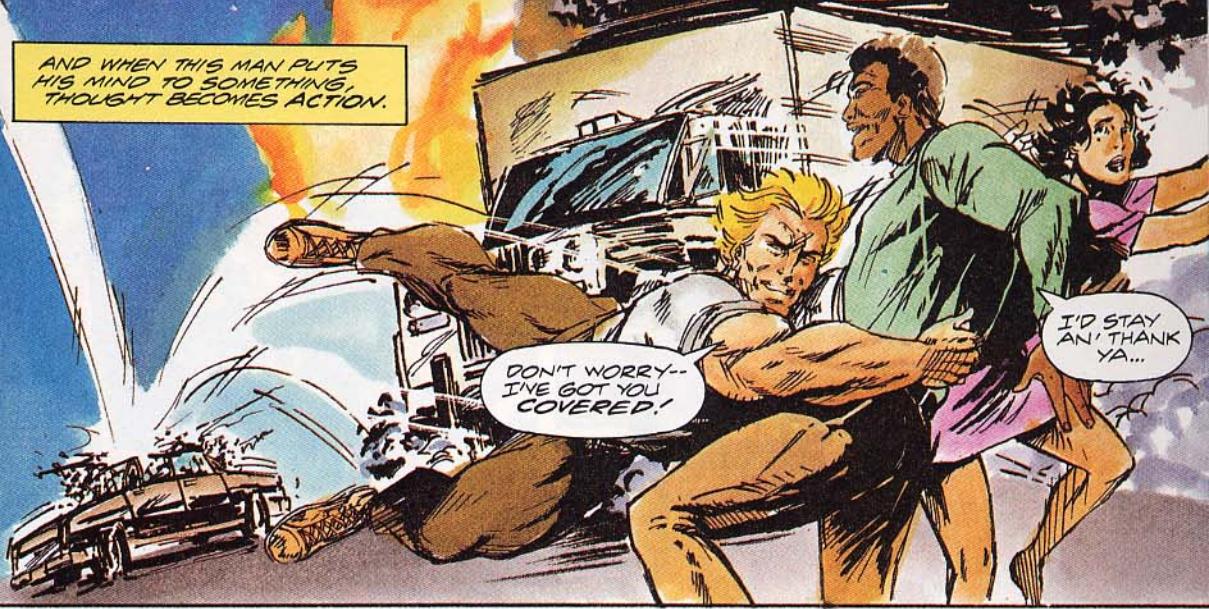
BUT CHARLES SMITH
CAN THINK OF NOTHING
ELSE.

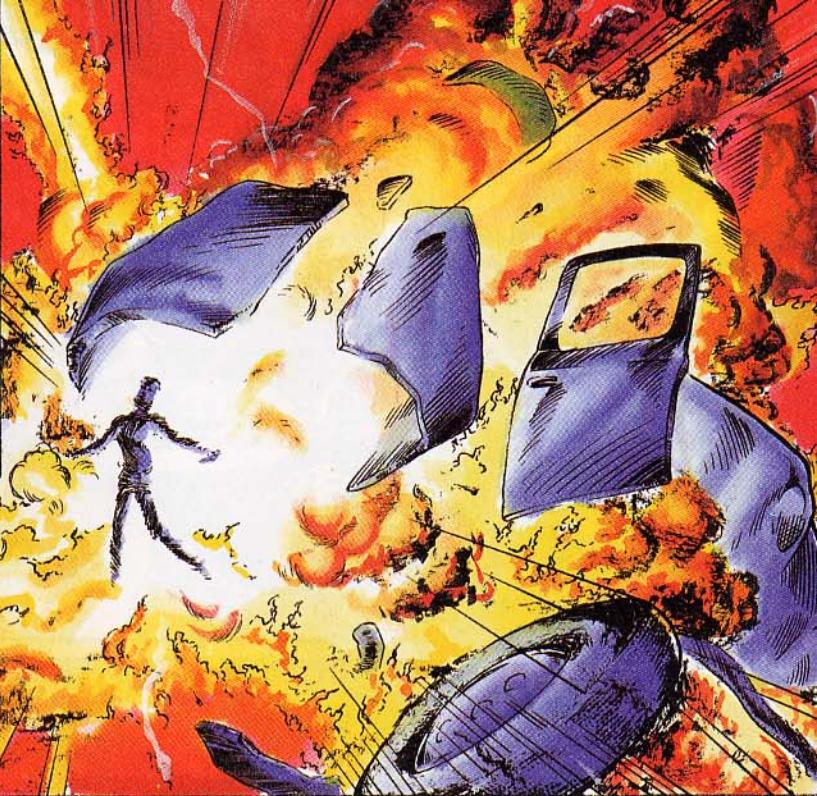
HE'S NOT
STOPPING!

-- TOO FAST
WE CAN'T --



AND WHEN THIS MAN PUTS HIS MIND TO SOMETHING, THOUGHT BECOMES ACTION.











UPPER MONTCLAIR.

